Implementing Accessibility for the Web Platform

Martin Robinson
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The web is for everyone.
Accessibility is useful for everyone.
Accessibility is (increasingly) the law.
U.S. Supreme Court Rejects Domino's Bid to Avoid Disabilities Suit

By Reuters

Oct. 7, 2019
Assistive Technologies

- Screen reader
- Braille displays
- On-screen keyboards
- Magnifiers
- Debug inspectors
Architecture

Process Boundary

Web Browser → Accessibility APIs → Assistive Technology
Web Browser Architecture

- Layout Tree
- Accessibility Tree
- Platform A11y APIs
Platform Interface - Queries

- Structure of accessibility tree
- Object dimensions and positions
- Role of accessibility objects
- Properties of nodes
- Text content of node
- Cursor and selection information
- Structure of tables
Platform Interface - Actions

● Activate links and other interface elements
● Open and traverse menus
● Select menu options
● Change cursor position or selection
● Scroll browser window
● Scroll an element into view.
Chromium Specific Details

Accessibility Tree

Accessibility Tree’

Tree Comparison

Events

Platform A11y APIs
Platform Interface - Events

- Cursor and selection changes
- Node focus changes
- Window activation changes
- Parent or children of node changes
- Node property and attribute changes
What are we doing?

- Implementing this for Chromium and ATK
- Lots of connecting Chromium interfaces to platform interfaces
- Accessibility on the Linux desktop is divided into two pieces
  - ATK: Server-side
  - AT-SPI2: Client-side
    - (meaning of server and client are reversed relative to common browser meaning)
- Mapping between browser roles and platform roles is **specified**!
- Look for it in upcoming Chromium releases
Questions?